Local Government Mandate Statement Kentucky Legislative Research Commission 2021 Regular Session

Part I: Measure Information

Bill Request #: 1227
Bill #: SB 269
Document ID #: <u>2641</u>
Bill Subject/Title: AN ACT relating to civil rights.
Sponsor: Senator Morgan McGarvey
Unit of Government: X City X County X Urban-County Unified Local
X Charter County X Consolidated Local X Government
Office(s) Impacted: Local Governments, Local Human Rights Commissions
Requirement: X Mandatory Optional
Effect on Powers & Duties: X Modifies Existing Adds New Eliminates Existing

Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local Government

The Kentucky Civil Rights Act, codified at KRS Chapter 344, prohibits discrimination by race, color, religion, natural origin, sex, or disability in situations relating to: (1) employment; (2) sale or lease of real property; (3) public accommodations; (4) financial transactions; (5) housing insurance; and (6) credit transactions. This bill amends these civil rights statutes to include the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This measure specifically broadens the scope of the powers and duties of the state and local human rights commissions to include protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in regard to various labor and employment practices.

The fiscal impact is indeterminable but it is unlikely that this bill would result in any significant impact on local government.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights' federal partners at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development have determined that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is in fact prohibited under Title VII and Title VIII as discrimination based on sex. The Commission anticipates an increase in the number of complaints they receive but does not expect a significant increase or impact on existing caseloads.

Any local government engaged in the identified commercial or related activities (e.g. rental properties) would have to conform and would be required to adopt conforming local ordinances. This bill would also require local governments with civil rights ordinances to amend their local civil rights laws to incorporate the language prescribed in this proposed bill. Local governments will incur costs associated with the drafting, publication, indexing and recording of adopted ordinances, and at least every five years, review and eliminate redundant, obsolete, inconsistent, and invalid provisions.

According to Kentucky League of Cities, most cities, especially the smaller ones, retain their city attorney on contract and pay on an hourly basis. Time spent drafting an ordinance is influenced by its complexity and the amount of research that is necessary. In FY 2020, the average hourly rate was \$107. Rates for legal notices vary greatly depending on the length of the publication, the number of times it needs to be published and the newspaper in which the publication is placed. Therefore, these costs are unknown.

Municipalities revise their ordinances, at least every five years by state law, to eliminate "redundant, obsolete, inconsistent, and invalid provisions." The cost of this mandate would be less if the repeal or revision were done in conjunction with this periodic updating of ordinances.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights; Kentucky League of

Cities

Preparer: Mark Offerman **Reviewer:** KHC **Date:** 2/23/21